

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
AUSTIN DIVISION**

**A PTY LTD.,**

**Plaintiff,**

**v.**

**HOMEAWAY, INC.,**

**Defendant.**

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**Civil Action No. 1:15-cv-158**

**Jury Trial Demanded**

**ORIGINAL COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff A PTY Ltd. (“A PTY” or “Plaintiff”) files this Complaint against HomeAway, Inc. (“HomeAway” or “Defendant”) for infringement of U.S. Patent No. 7,010,572 (the “’572 Patent”).

**I. PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff A PTY Ltd. is a company existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Australia, with its principal place of business headquartered at 1/620 St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3004.

2. Defendant HomeAway, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 1011 West 5th Street, Suite 300, Austin, Texas 78703. HomeAway has appointed its agent for service as follows: Corporation Service Company, 211 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 620, Austin, Texas 78701.

**II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

3. This is an action for patent infringement which arises under 35 U.S.C. §§ 271, 281, 284 and 285. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1338(a).

4. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b), 1391(c), and 1400(b). On information and belief, Defendant is deemed to reside in judicial district, has committed acts of infringement in this judicial district, has purposely transacted business involving its accused products in this judicial district, and/or has regular and established places of business in this judicial district.

5. Defendant is subject to this Court's specific and general personal jurisdiction pursuant to due process and/or the Texas Long Arm Statute, due at least to their substantial business in this State and judicial district, including: (A) at least part of their infringing activities alleged herein; and (B) regularly doing or soliciting business and, accordingly, deriving substantial revenue from goods and services provided to residents of this district and Texas. This includes, but is not limited to, operating a website (<http://www.homeaway.com/>) that provides the claimed method of conveying an email message to residents of this district. Thus, Defendant has purposefully availed itself of the benefits of the state of Texas and the exercise of jurisdiction is proper.

### **III. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

6. In the mid-1990s, an associated company of A PTY was involved with the provisioning and printing of telephone directories in Australia. In an effort to increase the value and utility of the directories, the subject technology was developed to enable users of the directory to locate the email address of a desired recipient. The method proposed the idea of adding identifiers next to advertised names, addresses, and phone numbers in the printed directories. The identifiers were intended to indicate to a user of the directory that any person linked to that address or phone number could be located and contacted via email.

7. The '572 Patent is generally directed towards a method for conveying email messages, where the email message includes an address field that is different from the unique

address of the intended recipient of the email message. The email message can include an address field that is a descriptor of the intended recipient of the email message, rather than the account name of the recipient. The method further involves locating in a database of descriptors and email addresses the email address associated with the descriptor and forwarding the message to the email address yielded by the database.

8. Defendant's accused instrumentalities enable the users of Defendant's website to convey email messages to other users of the website via an address field containing a descriptor of the intended recipient, rather than the actual email address of the intended recipient.

#### **IV. PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

##### **COUNT I — INFRINGEMENT OF U.S. PATENT 7,010,572**

9. Plaintiff is the assignee of the '572 Patent, entitled "SYSTEM FOR HANDLING ELECTRONIC MAIL," and holds all substantial rights in the same. Plaintiff has the exclusive right to sue and recover damages for past and future infringements. A true and correct copy of the '572 Patent is attached as Exhibit A.

10. HomeAway has infringed and continues to directly infringe one or more claims of the '572 Patent in this judicial district and elsewhere in the United States by, among other things, making, having made, providing, using, and/or distributing the claimed methods for conveying an email message. At a minimum, HomeAway has been, and now is, infringing claims of the '572 Patent, including (for example) at least Claim 1, by making, having made, providing, using, and/or distributing their communications platform that enables users to contact and convey email messages to sellers via a descriptor of the intended recipient.

11. HomeAway has knowledge of the '572 Patent at least as early as the date of service of this Complaint.

12. With knowledge of the '572 patent, HomeAway directs and aids its customers in using its communication platform and provides instruction (including, by way of example, the instructions available at <http://www.help.homeaway.com>) to customers.

13. Plaintiff alleges that each and every element is literally present in the accused systems. To the extent not literally present, Plaintiff reserves the right to proceed under the doctrine of equivalents.

14. Plaintiff has been damaged as a result of HomeAway's infringing conduct. HomeAway is thus liable to Plaintiff in an amount that adequately compensates it for HomeAway's infringements, which, by law, cannot be less than a reasonable royalty, together with interest and costs as fixed by this Court under 35 U.S.C. § 284.

#### **V. JURY DEMAND**

15. A PTY demands a trial by jury of all matters to which it is entitled to trial by jury, pursuant to FED. R. CIV. P. 38.

#### **VI. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff A PTY prays for judgment and seeks relief against Defendant as follows:

- a. Judgment that one or more claims of U.S. Patent No. 7,010,572 has been infringed, either literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents, by Defendant;
- b. Judgment that Defendant account for and pay to Plaintiff all damages to and costs incurred by Plaintiff because of Defendant's infringing activities and other conduct complained of herein;
- c. That Plaintiff be granted pre-judgment and post judgment interest on the damages caused by Defendant's infringing activities and other conduct complained of herein;
- d. That Plaintiff be granted such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper under the circumstances.

**ORIGINAL COMPLAINT**

Dated: February 23, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ William M. Parrish

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**ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF  
A PTY LTD.**

**ORIGINAL COMPLAINT**